Pikas in Nevada

by Mark Enders

Nevada Department of Wildlife
NDOW - Wildlife Diversity Division

- Non-game species
NDOW - Wildlife Diversity Division

• Non-game species
American pika (*Ochotona princeps*)

*Photo: Pika in the Ruby Mountains (M.R. Jeffress)*
Where do pikas occur?
Fig. 424. Distribution of subspecies of the pika, *Ochotona princeps*, with insert showing range of the species.
American pika (*Ochotona princeps*)

- NDOW
  - Species of Conservation Priority
- Protected in Nevada
  - NAC 503.030
- BLM Sensitive

*Photo: Pika in the Ruby Mountains (M.R. Jeffress)*
Statewide Surveys

• Started in 2009
  – NDOW & USFWS

• Determine current distribution
  – Latitudinal
  – Elevational

• Focus of surveys
  – Areas not previously surveyed
  – Update and expand known occupied areas
Survey Methods
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2014-15 Statewide Surveys

- 16 mountain ranges
Carson Range
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Carson Range
Sweetwater Mountains
Pine Forest Range
Toiyabe Range
Ruby Mountains
Roberts Mountains
Snake Range
Pequop Mountains
NW Nevada
Survey Results

- New occupied sites
- Likely extirpated sites
- Unoccupied sites
Implications

- Land management decisions
  - Resource management plans
  - Potential development projects
- Genetics
  - Population connectivity
  - Identify movement corridors
  - Identify vulnerable populations
- Climate
  - Extirpated sites
Future Plans

• Continue to survey
  – Areas not previously surveyed
  – Update and expand known occupied areas
• Make repeat visits
• Pika atlas
Questions?